

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (New) A self-closing valve for the dispensing of flowable media from a container having;

a curved membrane, the curvature of which is directed toward the

flowable media in the closed position and which curves

outwardly into a dispensing position upon pressure being

generated in the container,

a support segment which holds the valve to said container,

a connecting wall arranged between said membrane and said support segment,

a slitting provided in said membrane which opens in the dispensing position, wherein said slitting is arranged such that upon the deformation of the membrane from the closed position to the dispensing position induced by the application of pressure to the container, elastic resilient forces are generated within the membrane which cause said membrane to retract from said dispensing position to said closed position upon depressurization,

said connecting wall between said support segment and said membrane is disposed with an annular section which is arranged substantially in a common plane with said support segment or on a plane which is parallel to same, and said membrane having a constant wall thickness.

Claim 23. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22, wherein the contact between the connecting wall and the membrane is configured such that substantially no or only minimal torque is transferred from said connecting wall to said membrane so that any torque transmitted from said connecting wall to said membrane has substantially no effect on the opening and closing of said slitting.

Claim 24. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 23, wherein a transition zone between connecting wall and membrane is configured in hinge-like manner.

Claim 25. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said membrane and said connecting wall are configured to be substantially rotationally symmetric.

Claim 26. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein an area is adjoined to said annular section of connecting wall, said area extending at an obtuse angle from the plane of the support segment and the annular section.

Claim 27. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said membrane has a peripheral wall directed substantially to the connecting wall and a contact area is formed on said wall for connecting the membrane with the connecting wall.

Claim 28. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 27, wherein said contact area is formed on a middle region of said peripheral wall such that it is disclosed toward the inner curvature and, when in assembled state, away from the container interior.

Claim 29. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said membrane's wall thickness increases from its middle region outwardly, wherein the wall thickness in the outer region and measured parallel to the axis of rotation is preferably double to trip the wall thickness in the middle region.

Claim 30. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said slitting is configured such that it has one slit.

Claim 31. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said slitting comprises three slits which are preferably configured so as to be star-shaped and which are preferably arranged at the same angular spacing from one another.

Claim 32. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said slitting comprises four, five or more slits which are preferably arranged so as to be star-shaped and which preferably have the same angular spacing from one another.

Claim 33. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 25 wherein said slitting is configured to be rotationally symmetric to said axis of rotation.

Claim 34. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 30 wherein at least one of said slits is interrupted so as to create a material bridge, whereby the length of said slit interruption is smaller, preferably substantially smaller, than the total length of the respective slit.

Claim 35. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 30 wherein at least one slit has at least two or more interruptions.

Claim 36. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein a reinforcing ring is provided which is made from a harder synthetic material than the material of the membrane.

Claim 37. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 36 wherein said reinforcing ring is configured to be rotationally symmetric around the valve and having a plurality of openings.

Claim 38. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said valve body is made from a silicone material.

Claim 39. (New) A self-closing valve in accordance with claim 22 wherein said valve body is made from a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 40. (New) A self-closing valve particularly in accordance with claim 22 wherein said valve is made from thermoplastic elastomer and polypropylene or from silicone and polyamide.

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Claim 41. (New) A self-closing valve particularly in accordance with claim 22 wherein said membrane is configured in segmented semi-spherical form and has a substantially constant thickness.